# Center Director's Safety Bulletin

May 7, 2001

## Calendar of Events

### May

"A Clean Space Is A Safe Space"

## **May Safety Training**

May 15-17, 2001

System Safety Workshop

May 16, 2001

**CPR** 

May 18, 2001

System Safety Seminar

May 23-25, 2001

Fire Hazards

May 23, 2001

Lockout/Tagout

**Confined Space** 

May 25, 2001 Oxygen Systems: Operations and Maintenance

Contact the Learning Center at 3-2996 for a video on "Housekeeping and Teamwork in Industry"

#### **Facility Safety and Health Inspection Program**

Facility safety, health inspections, and follow-up corrective actions are an important aspect of the Glenn Research Center's Mishap Prevention Program. Inspections are the principal means by which management and safety and health personnel can identify hazardous conditions, unsafe work practices, and other occupational safety and health issues. The Program includes notification of responsible facilities personnel and follow-up actions to ensure that corrective actions are taken. Facility inspections are a major effort to ensure compliance with applicable regulations of other Federal agencies exercising regulatory authority over NASA in specific areas (e.g., Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission).

The Glenn Safety Office is responsible for administering the Program. This includes scheduling all inspections, coordinating inputs from inspection teams, maintaining the Facility Inspection Data Base, issuing inspection violation notices to responsible individuals or organizations, tracking corrective actions to closure, and issuing periodic reports on safety and health violations. Responsibility for implementing the Program at the Plum Brook Station is delegated to the Plum Brook Management Office.

#### Fragrances in the Workplace

Fragrances may seem harmless enough, but they are a concern for some people with asthma and chemical sensitivities. Many common chemicals and allergens can cause headaches, migraines, and even trigger an asthma attack.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), people with asthma have airways that are overly sensitive or hyper-reactive to certain asthma triggers. When an individual who has asthma is exposed to a trigger, their airway restricts which leads to coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. Things that trigger asthma attacks differ from person to person. Some common triggers are exercise, allergies, viral infections, fragrances, and smoke.

Over the past 15 years, the incidence of asthma has increased dramatically (both in children and adults). Due to this fact, it is important for us to be aware of our co-workers' sensitivities.

Individuals who react to fragrances used by their co-workers should make their co-workers aware of their sensitivities. Once the subject is discussed, most people may be willing to adjust their use of fragrances. If this does not resolve the situation, the affected employee should discuss the problem with their supervisor to identify potential solutions.

For more information on asthma, check out the following links:

- The American Lung Association: http://www.lungusa.org/
- Asthma Information Center from the Journal of the American Medical Association:

http://www.ama-assn.org/special/asthma/support/educate/basics.htm

- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology: http://www.aaaai.org/
- The EPA's Asthmas and Upper Respiratory Illnesses:

http://www.epa.gov/children/asthma.htm

**REMEMBER:** Mission Success Starts with Safety